

The

# JEWISH MONITOR

DR. GEORGE FOX, EDITOR

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## FOREIGN and DOMESTIC NEWS

FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

### TAFT DENIES INTERVIEW

Cincinnati, June 9, 1919.  
Editor Jewish Monitor.

Dear Sir: The newspapers of June 1st carried an interview purporting to have been given by Hon. Wm. H. Taft on the subject of Zionism. From personal knowledge it appeared to me that Mr. Taft had not been correctly reported. I therefore wrote him. I am enclosing the correspondence. You may make what use of this correspondence you desire.

Very truly yours,  
DAVID PHILIPSON.

Cincinnati, O., June 2nd, 1919.  
Hon. Wm. H. Taft,  
Washington, D. C.  
Dear Judge Taft:

The enclosed interview with you appeared in yesterday's Enquirer. My purpose in writing you is to inquire whether you have been reported correctly. You referred to a discussion with me on the subject of Zionism. The only time that I recall the matter to have been mentioned between us was in my study before your address in my temple in April. You remarked that you had read some of my writings on the subject and quite agreed with me. I then asked you to say something on the subject in your address. You replied that you would rather not since you had so many fights on your hands and you did not desire to be burdened with another.

The only conclusion that I can draw from the discrepancy between the interview and our conversation is that either the interviewer misrepresents you or I misunderstood you. I will greatly appreciate a word from you in clarification of the situation. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of my address "Israel, the International People."

It is quite incomprehensible to me how anyone can give allegiance to two nationalities or be loyal to two flags at one and the same time. To my way of thinking the Jews are an international religious community and not a distinct nationality. The question of race is an entirely different matter from that of nationality and does not involve the same considerations in these days. You are made to say in the course of the interview "America

consists of a number of nationalities and each one of these has its national and spiritual center somewhere else. They are, however, excellent American citizens. The late war demonstrated this thoroughly." Does the interviewer report you correctly? I cannot believe so, recalling as I do your many fine expressions on loyalty to the United States. The whole subject of hyphenated Americanism is involved. According to the statement attributed to you a man could be loyal to the governments of Germany and the United States or of any other country and the United States at the same time. It seems to me that if the late war demonstrated anything it was just this, of the imperative necessity of single-hearted loyalty to the United States and the impossibility of a double allegiance.

I rejoice in your splendid activities in the cause of the League of Nations. I wish to record also my great satisfaction with the action taken by the American Unitarian Association at its recent meeting in Boston in the matter of the religious liberty clause in the treaties to be made with the separate European states newly formed or re-organized. It was a great pleasure to have seen you again in Boston even though it was only for a few minutes.

With expressions of the highest esteem and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am

Sincerely yours,  
DAVID PHILIPSON.

Albany, N. Y., June 7th, 1919.  
My Dear Rabbi Philipson:

I have your favor of June 2nd. I am much surprised at the newspaper article you enclosed purporting to be an interview held with me by a Mr. Raskin. I was traveling on a Pullman car from Pittsburg to Washington. Two men of foreign type sat on the other side of the car. One came over and asked me what my opinion of Zionism was. I expressly declined to give an opinion. I said that I had talked with you and Mr. Gus Karger, Mr. Max Pam and others and had read discussions of the issue sufficiently to advise me that the difference was not as to mere colonization of Palestine

by Jews, but rather as to the spirit and future psychology of the movement, and that I thought it would be presumptuous and unwise in me, a non-Jew, to essay a judgment in such a field.

Mr. Raskin was evidently a poet and admitted it. He was an ardent enthusiast and expressed great contempt for those Jews who disagreed with him. His companion, whose name escaped me, said that he was going to Palestine to live and forward the movement. As I look over the report of the interview it seems to me that I recognize remarks attributed to me as as those Mr. Raskin made, and which, in his ardor, he notes me as adopting.

I must say that I had no idea that I was being interviewed or that my conversation was to be reported. If I had so understood, I would have insisted on putting what I said in writing or on having it written out for revision. I have no hesitation in saying that the interview as given is not correctly reported or in denying categorically that I said I was a Zionist.

You are at liberty to publish this.

With best wishes, believe me,

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) WM. H. TAFT.

Rabbi David Philipson,  
Rockdale Avenue Temple,  
3947 Beechwood Ave.,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### THE TEMPLE TO BUILD.

The large congregation of Cleveland, known as the Temple, of which the late Moses Gries, was the rabbi, and to which the brilliant young rabbi Abba Hillel Silver now ministers, is to have a new edifice. At a meeting of several members, more than \$253,000 was subscribed, the sums subscribed ranging from \$25,000 down.

#### FELIX M. WARBURG HEADS NATIONAL JEWISH CHARITIES.

Many Delegates Volunteer as J. D. C. Workers for Relief of Jews in Europe.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The 1919 meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Charities began here on Tuesday, May 27th, and continued to June 1st. There were about 300 delegates in attendance representing 192 philanthropic organizations.

At the closing sessions Mr. Felix M. Warburg, of New York, was elected

president to succeed Mr. Fred M. Butzel, of Detroit Mich. who led the organization during the last two years and who has been one of the most valuable influences in the national association. Other officers elected are: Morris D. Waldman, New York, First Vice President; Julius Goldman, New Orleans Second Vice President; Louis M. Cahn, Chicago, Third Vice President; Boris D. Bogen, New York, Secretary; Sidney Fritz, Cincinnati, Treasurer.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Rabbi Harry Mayer of Kansas City was presented with a purse of \$2500 on the twentieth anniversary of his coming to Kansas City. This is a pretty compliment and a well-deserved one.

Rabbis Henry Cohen and Martin Zielonka of Texas have been appointed members of the Children's Welfare Commission of that State.

Dr. Samuel Sale, one of the most prominent of the anti-Zionist group of rabbis, has announced a change of mind, and has joined the Zionist camp.

Justice Louis D. Brandeis, honorary president of the American Zionist Organization, is scheduled to sail for Palestine June 12th. He is to be accompanied by Jacob de Haas, the secretary of the organization. The object of Justice Brandeis' visit has not been stated.

Mrs. Abram Simon, of Washington, D. C., who has been the president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods since its organization in 1913, declined re-election as president and was elected honorary president of the organization.

#### THREE JEWS ELECTED TO IMPORTANT POLISH COMMITTEES.

London: The Poles have finally yielded somewhat to the Jews and have allowed them to enter several important parliamentary committees. Noah Prilucki has been appointed Jewish representative in the committee on parliamentary management; Isaac Greenbaum has been made a member of the parliamentary food committee and Rabbi Halpern has been taken into the committee on war.